DECLASSIFIED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES
(TRANSLATION)
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY nlc DATE 10/21/92
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSEMENTS/CODE-MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

French

Embassy of the Central African Empire
Washington, D.C.

No. 173/AMB/ECA/W

The Embassy of the Central African Empire presents its compliments to the Department of State (Office of Protocol) and has the honor to enclose herein a copy of the "Denial of the Central African Government," published following a press release of the French Section of Amnesty International on Monday, May 14, 1979, regarding "children reportedly massacred by soldiers in the Central African Empire."

[Complimentary close].

Washington, D.C., May 21, 1979

[Initialed]
[Embassy stamp]

Enclosure: "Denial of the Central African Government"

DECLASSIFIED

LS. No. 90391-B

Embassy of the Central
African Empire
Washington, D.C.

DENIAL OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN GOVERNMENT

On Monday, May 14, 1979, the French Section of Amnesty International had a communique distributed in Paris by the press, whereby "some one hundred children from 8 to 16 years of age were reportedly massacred by soldiers in the Central African Empire.

The Central African Government wishes to make it clear that while arrests were indeed made during the student demonstrations which took place on April 18, 1979, the 50 or so students apprehended, all of whom were over 16 years of age, were released on April 20 by order of His Majesty the Emperor, who was chairing a meeting that day at the headquarters of the National Party.

It should also be noted that in order to escape the police, approximately 140 demonstrators went over to the Zairian town of Zongo on the opposite shore of the Oubangi River across from Bangui.

When informed of this by the local Zairian authorities, the Central African Government invited these children to return to their families, which they did.

Thus, the temporary absence of these children could have led one to believe that they had disappeared.

Even though the Government has done everything to restore order to the country, and all schools and universities are once again operating normally, the government is aroused by the fact that Amnesty International

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

waited nearly one month before giving special prominence to these events, doubtless in order to tarnish the reputation of the Central African Republic and to stir up troubles which are now no more than a painful memory.

The Government wishes to make clear that Amnesty International, preferring to believe in fanciful allegations which have no basis in fact, declined an invitation extended to it by the Emperor on March 23, 1979 to send a delegation to the Central African Empire in order to evaluate the situation in the country.

In truth, Amnesty International's comments on the alleged massacre of young Central Africans are part of a vast campaign designed to discredit the Central African Empire in order to undermine international opinion, to discourage all efforts of goodwill, and to demolish all of its economic and social development work.

Whatever happens, the Central African people, united within their party, the Social Evolution Movement of Black Africa (MESAN), are determined to pursue their chosen path of struggling for peace, r.tional harmony, and progress.

[Embassy stamp]

DECLASSIFIED